

JACOB MERRILL RASMUSSEN

ORAL HISTORY BY HIS DAUGHTERS

I began this session and started the tape recorder but had some difficulty and didn't realize that it wasn't recording after 30 or 40 minutes. There are a few lines that it picked up and then I had to start again.

Track 1: Just says testing 1, 2, 3

Track 2: It, it says that he made the seats (in the Star Theater) but they were very comfortable to sit in. Dramas were often held here instead of at the ward house. The motion pictures were

The introduction was cut off and I told them we would start over and to just introduce themselves again.

This is **Susan Merrell** from the Regional History Center of the Uintah County Library. Today is July 9, 2008 and we are here in Glen and Louise Bascom's home at 6850 North 12125 East, in LaPoint, Utah. I am talking with the daughters of Jacob Merrill Rasmussen who are:

My name is **Clythella Trujillo** and I live in Ogden, Utah. I'm the oldest daughter.

I'm **Deon Harvey**, oldest of a pair of twins. I live in Sunset, Utah, out near Ogden.

(She stole my thunder.) I'm **Veon (Harvey)**, I'm the youngest twin. (Laughter) I live in Clearfield, out on the Wasatch front, and I've been there so long that I still have to come home for my alkali fix. Ok, LaWanna.

I'm **LaWanna June Rasmussen Goodrich**. I'm the fourth one down and I just want to say Deon is sixteen minutes older than Veon. And I'm from Roy.

I'm **Carol Renae Rasmussen Schurz**. I'm fifth in the six and I live in LaPoint, Utah, ok? I am six years younger than my sister LaWanna.

And I'm seven years younger than Renae so now you can see where I come in the line up here (laughing) and that's why I don't really remember any of this that we are going to be talking about, but my name is **Louise Marie Rasmussen Bascom** and I live here in LaPoint in, in the second Star Theater that my dad built. (Someone says, yes, right, very good, all right)

This is **Veon**. The most thing I remembered about my Dad, of course, was his skills as a carpenter and he was, and I'm going to say that again, he was a carpenter first, well he was a husband first, father second, carpenter third and a jack of all trades and then he be, then

he was a farmer. And because the farmer came last, because mom was a good helper and us girls grew up we became the helpers so the farm was not his prime umm, prime concern even though there were many, many acres that we did, not all of them were in cultivation. Umm, but every, almost every home in LaPoint had some of Dad's work in it. And uhh, his carpentry skills were well known, uhh people came from as far away as Duchesne to ask him to do things for them. In fact, last evening, which would have been the eighth of July, we were at a meeting in Ballard and ran into a young man there who was there for the program and he, we mentioned that we were Merrill Rasmussen's daughters and he said, "Oh yes, I remember him, he remodeled our home". And if you would, if you were to ask people in the Uintah Basin how many of them knows Merrill Rasmussen (someone says carpenters) quite a few would raise their hands and the thing they would respond to is he did something for me in my home. So Dad's carpenter skills were uhh, immense. Umm, the Star Theater I would almost say was probably one of his biggest, maybe, (someone says endeavors) endeavors and uhh, a prime uhh, example of his skills but the fulfillment of something he wanted to leave in LaPoint. LaPoint was his home. He never made any other place his home. LaPoint was his bre, his love and so anything he could do to make LaPoint better, well-known was what he did and I'm proud of the skills that he had because I think, like I said, all of us girls, maybe save one, all had his skills employed in our home and in our behalf and in our families.

This is **LaWanna**. As I read in his histories, LaPoint felt like they wanted a recreation or an entertainment place and so I think it was kind of a town thing that came together (**Veon**: from daddy) and daddy said, "I can do that" and with the help of (someone says his brothers) his brothers and family, you know, they took care of it, that accomplishment. But he also uhh, had that in his heart and in his mind; he loved doing things like that. (Someone says, uh huh, entertain) Uhh before, I didn't interject this before, but we grew up in a house where daddy loved to have parties (a couple in the background agree) and we had games that were just wonderful. We grew up with these games and daddy enjoyed entertaining other people. He enjoyed that.

Veon: So the Star Theater was the beginning.

Veon: Yeah

Well, oh, my name is **Clythella Trujillo**. And because daddy didn't have any sons, we all had the opportunity to do work with daddy on the farm, to work with daddy with his, with his building, and I had the privilege of being his "paster" when he wall papered (someone says uh huh) the homes in the days when they hung wall paper. And I'm so proud of myself because he always made me feel so good and I was his best "wall paperer". But we, like I say, all of us girls, up until we got married, did work by daddy's side at just about everything he did. We were his helpers. And uhh, after we were married, my husband and I started a snowmobile business and a body shop in Ogden and my dad had an opportunity to come and stay and help us with that body shop. And he taught me my book keeping skills. And I am grateful to him because we had the shop for thirty-four years and I did all the book keeping. And umm, also daddy told my husband, we, when the snowmobiles, my husband was the first snowmobile dealer in Ogden and uhh my dad had the privilege of signing off the uhh, invoice of the first shipment of the snowmobiles that came to Ogden. And my dad,

of course, was doing the book work for us at that time and the snowmobiles cost between four hundred and nine hundred dollars apiece and my dad had a fit when he wrote out the check to pay for those five snowmobiles that we bought. He says, "I've never seen that much money". And he says, and my husband of course was our first son-in-law or his first experience with a son-in-law and he says, "Oh Gerald, this is foolish. This is so extravagant; you can't afford to do this. And like he told us, he says, "I've never seen five hundred dollars in my life, let alone on one snowmobile just to ride on the snow.

(Laughing) But do you know what, my father grew to love those snowmobiles and he rode them just like we did. (**Louise**: And he even had his own snow...) He never, we had a, we ran also a café that year. Well, one year we leased a café up on the Monte Cristo Mountain and my dad was living with us that winter and he went up there. Every weekend he helped me buy or order the food, you know, like he said about his theater. He took care of ordering the food for the restaurant, you know. He kept the electric motors running for the lights for our café and he shoveled the snow to the privy down the hill and he said he had more fun watching the fancy ladies that would come up there on snowmobiles and have to go to the bathroom and we didn't have one inside the café. And so he would stand on the porch and watch them try to decide whether to go down to the privy or whether to try and go in the snow somewhere. (Laughter) He said they always, he said they always gave up and finally went down and took their snowsuits off and used the privy. (Someone says, Oh my!) He said he loved watching those fancy ladies and that, you know having to go to that privy. But he, that whole winter, he worked for us. He worked for us that whole winter and he did. He did my book keeping. He did my ordering for the food for the café. He kept the electric motor running. He shov..., done all the shoveling and chopped the wood and made sure that the fireplace burned all the time because the kids had to sleep on sleeping bags in front of the fireplace, you know at night, because we didn't have enough room and umm, and it was every weekend. We'd work in our body shop and snowmobile shop during the week and then on weekends we'd all get together and load up and go up on the mountain and take care of snowmobilers for the weekend. And it was fun.

Susan: How nice.

Louise: And how old was he?

Cythella: My dad, my dad would had to have been sixty-nine years old. He was born in 1900 and we ran the café in '68 and '69, that, that winter. We only did it one winter because it was an awful lot but it was a fun experience.

Can I interject something here? This is **Veon** again. I can just imagine all those pieces of board that came off of those snowmobiles, Dad envisioned something he could build with them. (Others agreeing and saying "yes" and "uh huh" and laughing) I can see him and if Gerald took them out, those crates, yeah, if Gerald took them out and stacked them up, dad could envision how can I get them back out home?

And this is **LaWanna**. Another thing daddy did, he did not waste nails. (**Deon** and some others: No! He did not.) He'd take a crooked nail and pound it straight and use it.

And this is **Louise** and I testify to that because I still have cans, coffee cans and shortening cans, full of nails that need to be straightened (laughing) and I'm not going to do it. (Lots of Laughter) I'm waiting for dad to come back.

Clythella: Well, uhh, in 1985 I, I got this brainstorm to do a life story of my dad on video and we, and I was bringing him out here, he was with us in August or in Ogden, and as we were driving out here, he was 85 years old, and I said to him, "Daddy, what have, what, what is your philosophy of life? You know, you are 85 years old, you just love, he, he loved to dance. He loved to dance. He says well, he says my philosophy is, he liked to go uhh, to uhh, the Senior Citizen dances and he said, "I always made sure that every lady that was there got a dance, got to dance--they didn't sit there". And then, and then also he said, "My philosophy is—is always leave something undone so that you have something to do the next day". (Laughter) So you'll have something to get up, get up for. (**Veon:** a reason to get up.) (**Susan:** That's right!)

This is **Lawanna:** On that matter about daddy dancing, when I was a teenager and in Mutual, we had dances all the time in Mutual and daddy was there and sure every young girl to that dance got a dance. The young women who never got a chance to dance were often called "wallflowers." My dad made sure that every girl, at the Mutual dance, got a dance. He danced with each one of them. The young women enjoyed dancing with him because he was a very good dancer.

Clythella: He and my mother loved to dance with each other. I mean, they, when, in the church, in the LaPoint Ward, when us girls were all little, you know, we'd go to the dance and mom and daddy would make us a bed on church benches and put us to bed on the, you know, we'd go to sleep and then he and mama would dance till the dance ended really. But we'd always go to sleep in the church. And I'd like to mention that something that was really unique about my dad and mother, like they said they loved to put on parties. And they had lots of parties down to our house. And uhh, they learned a cute little skill about making different flavored ice cream, like chocolate and strawberry and vanilla and other flavors, you know, like a freezer of ice cream. And when it got frozen, they'd take canning cans and they cut out the ends of the cans and then they'd sl., (someone says and they'd layer) and they made layered ice cream. You know, what do they call it? Napoleon ice cream. (**Veon:** Neapolitan.) (Someone in the background says ohh, yes. Neapolitan, my mother and dad made Neapolitan ice cream.

Susan: Oh, how neat!

Clythella: For our parties.

Louise: Before it was ever, (someone says, known) I mean in LaPoint anyway.

Clythella: And uhh, this house right over here is the uhh, the Rasmussen (someone say homestead) home--this white house. (Someone says, the homestead grandpa built.)

Louise: Where Stegloughski, Ken Stegloughski where he lives, right there.

Clythella: Yep, my dad helped build that and that was the Rasmussen home, his family's home and this is, that's where Uncle Ken was born. And then there's a log cabin across the street right now.

Louise: It's Shirley's (Peterson).

Veon (?): It's a log home there.

Clythella: It's a log home now, but when I was born it was a granary. There was a granary there and I was born in that granary.

Louise: Dad made that into a home so that they would have a home while they were building other things. (This is Louise.)

Clythella: When they was first married, they fixed it up and you know, it was a granary but they fixed it up like a cute little apartment, is what they did. And that's where I was born was in that granary.

Louise: And then, uhh, the next home that they built was the one that is down on the farm and that is where uhh, Bryce Rushton lives. That's where he lives now. Now that home was the home that my dad and mom built and that's where they lived until 197...(someone says, 2) ...something like that.

LaWanna: I was going to say, this is **LaWanna**. The home that they were just talking about down there, daddy built that completely. (**Louise:** Yes.) And I think we grew up in a very nice home. We had a fireplace, we had a dining room, a living room, a kitchen, a bathroom, hallway, two bedrooms downstairs and three bedrooms upstairs, an archway between the living room and the kitchen and the dining room. And I thought it was pretty neat that we had a fireplace because many people didn't have a fireplace. He was a very good house builder.

This is **Veon** again: I was one of the children; one of the first, well, there was four of us born in that home because Louise got her own way, she come in the hospital. (Laughing) But all the rest of us were born in that home and it was still being built when Deon and I were born. So mother didn't only have to handle a child that was three years old and two babies and all the chores, but dad was building a home around her.

Someone: Oh my goodness!

Veon: And so it was never finished for many years and then he didn't really like it 'cause the kitchen was on the north and so that was ice and snow to walk through to get in so he traded it around. He put the bathroom on the north and put the kitchen on south (I think it was cut off somehow) and ah, (someone says, oh, my gosh, I didn't know that) and, and then finished up the upstairs. At one point it was only two rooms, one long room cut in half with a blanket or sheets and us girls slept in the west side because the evening sun came in and warmed that room in the winter. And so it made it warmer for us to go to bed. But that home was a constant, umm, ongoing project of dad's sometimes not to mother's agreement. She sometimes would say, "Merrill, that will be fine, leave it there!" The most

unique thing I remember about that home and I'm almost sure it was dad's invention, was the ironing board that came down from the wall in the kitchen.

Someone, I think **Louise**, in background: Oh cool, yes.

Veon: And when you got through ironing, the ironing board went back into the wall. Well I shouldn't say the iron, it was the plates that you put on the stove and then the, well it was an iron put together. But he added boxes up in there to put each of those things and they went up into the wall (and it was closed, it was closed behind the door) behind a door and so on Tuesdays that came down. That was the only day it came down. Maybe Saturday if somebody needed something ironed for ... (someone in the background says church). But that was a unique house. That was daddy. And he had a medicine cabinet that was up on a wall and up in the top, toward the top of the kitchen, and it was out of reach. And he knew safety for us girls long before we understood why it was too far up there. (Someone says, "to reach".) But daddy's unique abilities of designing and building, which like I really feel like was his first love, he loved everything, but his first love was building. He'd have been a magnificent builder now. (I think it is **Louise** that says, "Creating".)

This is **LaWanna**. He knew what he enjoyed doing and, like the houses that he built, he enjoyed taking us on little, short trips. And as I remember it was always in the fall just before school started. It was usually to southern Utah, sometimes Colorado, or in the mountains a lot (Someone interjects, "to Harper's Corner".) And these things were his love and his life. And I was just thinking about what Veon said about those upstairs bedrooms. You didn't have a flat ceiling upstairs, Daddy wall papered and Clythella was his favorite "pasterer". I remember helping some. The wall paper went up and over the top of the ceiling and down on the other side. And I still remember the wall paper that was up there, little pink roses.

Veon: One room was pink and the other's was yellow.

LaWanna: And it got mighty dark up there at night, mighty dark.

Susan: No lights, huh?

Renae in the background says: "Let's not forget the basement".

Clythella: Now, I'm going to have to ask, ask my sisters if this is true or not, but, but it's my understanding that our home was built with bar—ahh, lumber that he bartered for. Like he would work for other people and trade his work for lumber to build that house.

Clythella: But I'm not sure about that.

Veon: He may have that in his papers somewhere. We need to re-read it.

Louise: Yeah, he may have that in his story.

LaWanna: I'm not sure that he would have wanted to be a farmer completely, well, because there were no boys. The great depression was happening then and you couldn't make enough money on a farm. But he had to leave the farm to be able to provide for his family. It just naturally fell to Mama and all of us to milk the cows and do the haying and to feed the chickens and the horses and the cows and we did a lot of calving. We learned to do that. They were our chores to do every day. Rewards were swimming in the canal. We loved that! And these were the little chores that daddy had us do when he was home. One thing in particular I remember, that always scared me to death, was helping Daddy bring the horses from the top of the North forty down and that he always wanted one particular horse. I was positioned in front of the gate to keep the rest of the horses in and let only one horse through. I failed miserably many times. We'd have to start over and bring them back down. He needed my help, no matter how feasible, and I learned a lot from going through this with Daddy. This is one of my treasured memories of him.

Veon: She talks about a little bit of winter sport. The fun thing that we loved to do (oh, I'm **Veon**—sorry, the younger twin) anyway, which were part of winter chores and the most fun, was to go skate down on the pond west of the house. But in the winter, and I noticed that it was in this book that I had, the Uintah County, we weren't the only family, although at one point I thought we were, 'cause we had the biggest ice house, and we cut ice blocks out of the pond and stored them. My favorite thing in the summer was, after I went swimming, or if I didn't have time to go swimming, was to go in the ice house because those ice blocks were packed in sawdust, and I would get up on top of the stack and wiggle my toes down till they got to the wet sawdust and that was the most delightful air conditioning, cooled room you could ever be in. You could lay there for hours and be cold the whole time.

Someone in background: And it smelled so good.

Veon: After being out haying why that was our favorite place to go after we went and showered in the canal. (Laughter)

LaWanna: Our dad built a long sled for the grandkids.. (Someone, maybe **Veon**, says, "Yes, to bring the ice up".) I have pictures and I even got to enjoy it one time to get on that long sled used in the winter time. It was a Ford tractor. But he would pull us seven people on that long sleigh and somebody on the tractor would pull us through the snow, out in the fields, all over the fields, and we loved it. He enjoyed it so much. (**Rena** says, "He entertained. He loved that".)

This is **Deon:** Since we are talking about things that we learned from him and we spoke of it earlier. Even though he was a carpenter there was nothing he did, whether it was carpentry work, whether it was electrician work, he could do anything and we girls, of course, are his biggest cheer leaders. The things that he did, I want this to be remembered and hopefully Susan will put this in the record, is that what he taught us was quality. If we were going to do something, he wanted us to do the best we could. And most of the time it was the quantity of things that he had to do but he tried to make everything that was a quantity problem a quality problem also. And so I think every one of us, even though we're talking about all the fun things and other things that he did, I hope that's the one thing that we learned in our lives was the fun things that our dad did but nothing he did was ever

anything but of quality. (**Veon** in background: It was never shabby.) It was never shabby. It might have been a little less than brand new because he always used things up. He always used things that he had, many times over. And we loved him for it. Uhh, maybe we griped about it a couple of times because, as girls would, we wanted some of those other things. Our sons, if we would have had brothers, might not have thought that was so bad, but we girls always wanted a few of those finer things, but he had a way of teaching us that even those were not the most important things in our lives. (In the background you can hear agreeing.) And the things we learned from him and from our mother were the quality things and that's what we want to remember him by and the things that he taught us. Not only, not only in his work, but also in his church, in his life, (someone in background says: "in social") in social, in the whole thing, it was always quality.

This is **Renae**: And along with Deon's, what she just said, about daddy, his quality of work. As he told me, you do the best you can (**Clythella**: "with what you have") with what you have. Yes! And it doesn't matter whether you get paid for it or not, because if you do the best you can, the best quality, the best of everything you can, then people will get to know you and they will trust you. (Someone says uh huh) And I have had a coup..., you know I've had my grandkids come, and I've had a couple of them stay with me and they have started their first jobs, working the summer with me, and I have sat down and said these very same things to my kids. You know, uh, it's not the money that you get, it's the quality that you do. And that will go down on your resume and that will tell people that, you know, all right so you get paid a penny, so what. Maybe you did the work for a hundred dollars, you know. I said that is what's going to shine in your life for the rest of your life. That has stayed with me, and I used to complain about being the black sheep of the family, which I still am. (Laughing and...) But I used to cry to daddy about how come all my sisters lives always seem to go right, and mine always seemed to go wrong. (Emotion in her voice.) And he said, "Renae, you don't know what their lives are. If you could be a little fly on the wall or a little mouse in the corner, you would find that their lives have just as many problems in them as yours does. It's just that you can't see them. And he taught us, actually he did, love, caring, (**Louise**: unconditional love) unconditional love. And when mama passed away, one of the things she said to us was, "There is nothing so bad that you can't smile about it". And I think every one of us girls have really tried hard to be just that. And daddy was the same way. There was nothing so bad that you couldn't find fun and content in it. (Someone says, That was great.)

LaWanna: I think Renae also you would find you wouldn't want their problems. (**Renae**: "Yeah, I think") because I think we're given trials and things to see what we'll do with them. We had a lesson in Relief Society one time where they said, if you think your problems are bad, just look at your neighbor. Look at those that are sitting beside you. You probably wouldn't want theirs. You probably couldn't handle theirs.

Renae: Susan and I have talked about this a few years back.

Susan: Yes, we have.

LaWanna: So you know, we're all given things we need to overcome. (Agreement) And I think our dad taught us well on that too.

Clythella: It was daddy's skill in carpentry that...my name's Clythella again,(some laughter) forgive me, I don't have a very good memory anymore, (**Susan** says: "That's all right") but anyway it was daddy's skill as carpentry that had, when the war broke out, and all of our soldiers left, why daddy was drafted (**Veon** in background: as a carpenter) to go to southern Utah (background comment: Delta) and help build the Japanese concentration camp called Topaz (**Susan**: oh, ok, at Delta) and my, our dad worked there, while they were building that.

Deon, maybe: And that was what he was drafted as, was a carpenter. (Veon: a carpenter)

Clythella: Yeah, and he was drafted as a carpenter and we, we lived out there. We left our home here in LaPoint and we were out there for five years. We also had the opportunity to learn how to earn money. He made us a tithing box and taught us how to pay our tithing and that's never left me. I've paid my tithing ever since.

Susan: That's great.

Veon: All of us have.

LaWanna: I think we need to point out that our dad was a faithful member of the church and a very religious man and we had family home evenings at our house.

Veon: Before they were initiated.

Clythella: Oh yes, my goodness...

LaWanna: They were the most fun because we always had a treat and we always had a lesson. We always sang songs. And I don't think it was a certain night of the week, like it basically is now. Every week we had a family home evening with our mom and dad. You know our mother died in 1965, but our dad has accomplished so much since that time. He kept busy. He still had many things he wanted to do, many things he needed to do that was helping his daughters in the ways that they needed his help. And that kept him busy. In fact, our dad was building the home that Louise lives in now when he had his stroke in November of '89. And up until that time he was busy. He kept late hours a lot of times to finish his paperwork.

Deon: He was still helping neighbors. He was still.....

LaWanna: All of us sisters can attest to the fact that his bookkeeping had to be done that day so he was up burning the midnight oil taking care of his books. (Someone says bookkeeping.) Daddy could show you every penny he ever spent and every penny that went out of his pocket and every penny that he earned and where it went.

This is **Renae:** And just in view of what LaWanna just said, our dad definitely was an accountant. He was also (what do they call them now?) a drawing... (someone in the background say oh, an architect, oh yeah) an architect, drawing blueprints. I, over the

years as I got older, I thought, I wonder why our dad didn't go further, because he was the most excellent person to draw blueprints. When it came to detail, I know everyone of us has set and watched daddy do his drawing like he did for the Star Theater. Obviously, daddy was not married, was he, when they started the Star Theater? (**Veon**, I think, says, "Nope, that was the year before".) That was a dream of a young man who could see again, you can see even when he was young; his whole purpose in life was to make pleasure and fun for others. And if he could do that, he would do that. Uhh, in regards to this theater, Rulon and I moved to Battle Mountain, Nevada, and in one of our courses down there, we were thinking of putting in a theater, in Battle Mountain. Umm, there was a building there, a great big building, we thought would work just fine. Battle Mountain's Theater they had there had finally closed down. To go to a show from Battle Mountain, you had to go 79 miles to Elko or 63 miles to Winnamucca and the kids really had nothing. And so Rulon and I were thinking that maybe that's something we would like to try. Daddy came down to Battle Mountain and helped us, drew out the whole thing, exactly the way it would have been, exactly what we would have to do for it and everything. Umm, as it turned out, it didn't come about, but again daddy's ability to try and make fun and happiness for others; it was part of him. Just like the kids have mentioned, our trips up to Paradise or on the hay wagon and all the hay and the horses and umm, our home life, but he did teach us how to (which I wasn't very good at it) how to save our money, pay our tithing. That was a very big part of daddy's life and I just wanted to share that with you.

Susan: Good!

Clythella: And when she says make everybody happy, you know, when they'd go up to Paradise Park or up to Chipeta Lake every year, fishing, daddy wasn't a fisherman, but he would take all the kids and we would (**LaWanna:** go on a hike.) Our parents would fix us a little lunch and we would hike to the top of the Bawly Mountains and yell at the fishermen down on the lakes (**Veon:** And they didn't like it.) And he entertained the kids while his brothers fished.

Susan: Oh for neat!

This is **LaWanna:** In 1955 we made the trip up to the mountain and the things I remember, of course, was the big trailer which held the long pole, the tent and also the thunder and the rain that year. I caught my very first fish. And Renae caught her very first fish, and Aunt Velma caught hers, and (**Renae**, I think mama.) Mama. We all got a picture of us with our first fish and they were kind of undersized but he let us keep it. And daddy took the picture and he says you can keep that fish.

Maybe **Clythella** said: yes, we did. It was always a week.

Renae: It was usually always a two week trip.

Veon: A whole week of no cows. (Laughter, and then someone says, right) I loved it!

Clythella: And also, I'd like to mention that Daddy was in the scouting program for 75 years. (Someone says, Oh yes) It's saluting, you know, the 75th year anniversary and here's daddy. And he was a scout for 75 years. Here's a picture and you can look at that. (She is pointing to a picture in the *Uintah Basin Standard*, *SALUTING SCOUTINGS 75TH ANNIVERSARY*, *A Supplement printed July 24, 1985—a copy of this is included.*)

Susan: Oh my goodness!

Deon, maybe: Clythella, didn't he receive the Silver... Beaver.

Veon: The Silver Beaver. He received that.

LaWanna: He became a scoutmaster at the age of eighteen- -the first one in LaPoint. He was the first scoutmaster in LaPoint.

Clythella: He joined the scouts at twelve.

LaWanna: And he said some of the boys were older than him, but he was still the scoutmaster. (Laughter)

I want to interject here, daddy started – Oh, this is **Louise**.

Susan: I think I'd recognize your voice.

Louise: Yeah, you'll recognize me. Daddy was the first scoutmaster in LaPoint and he started Troop uhh...(Susan: 239) 239 or 249 or something.

Deon: Is it still going?

Louise: And it is still going. But he was the one that started it when he was 18 years old and became the first scoutmaster. And he talks about many, many trips that he made up to the High Uintas and I think that tent and that pole was what they took with them and that's why it ended up in our family when you guys was all there. But he had that tent for the scout troops and he had a lot of the, the men that are prominent in our ward now that was in his little scout troop.

This is **Clythella** again: We talked about the first time he built the grub box but he also built a trailer, a tent trailer that would fold out--the first ones I ever saw, you know camping trailers. He called it the "tagalong". He took his grandchildren, when they started becoming teenagers, you know, he would take them, the ones that were between 14 and 18, to Southern Utah to places like Zion's and all the canyons down there every year so his grandchildren would remember his camping trips. He also loved taking pictures. I haven't heard anybody mention (lots of whispering – oh, yes, yes) that he was an avid photographer.

Renaë: He has one in my home where I'm standing in my panties.

This is **LaWanna**: What I remember is he took a trip to Europe too, when he was 81. Daddy loved taking all these pictures. He would take pictures of everything that he saw. Our daughter, Arlene and Grandpa Rasmussen went to Holland, then to Germany and saw the Berlin Wall. They are on a bus traveling and he can't really see out the windows, so he's holding his camera up like this (arm raised high up in the air) or she got a picture of him holding his camera up taking pictures up in the air of what's out the window. We're so lucky to have all the pictures that daddy has because he loved photography; he loved taking pictures of scenery, and trips and things. Life did not stop for daddy when mama died. We love her, we miss her, but we're certainly grateful we have had him in our lives over 37 years. He was a very good man, very moral man, very concerned with his family to make sure that we were doing the best we could with our lives.

Louise: And I don't know about the rest of you guys, but I never, ever remember getting a spanking from my dad. Do you guys?

Someone?: Once

This is **Veon**: I got one; I deserved it! (Laughter)

Deon: He had a way of making it work.

Louise: I never, ever wanted my dad to be disappointed in me. And I knew when I'd done something wrong that I wasn't going to get a spanking but he would be very disappointed in me. That was worse than the spanking.

Renaë: That hurt. That hurt that you let him down.

This is **Clythella** again: Uhh, that's, that's true, he never spanked us, but he always made me, or he told me, that every choice we make in life has its price. And sooner or later, you have to pay it. (There are a couple of "yeahs" in the background)

This is **Deon** and I've got to jump back to his scouting years. We came out on the 29th of June, to an eagle court of honor (**Veon**: this year-2008) for our grandson who would be our dad's great-grandson who received that eagle rank. This is Bruce's boy who lives here in LaPoint, Bruce Harvey's boy. Every one of them, at some point in time when they get their eagles, they will mention the influence that the scouts have given them but also that they remember that their grandfather or their great-grandfather had so much to do with the scouting here in LaPoint and throughout this area. (Someone says uh huh) And so it's a wonderful contribution that he made to the scouts that they all do remember him and love it so much like they do; and work for these eagle court of honors.

Well, this is **LaWanna**: I've always imagined daddy's girls being his best scouters. (Someone says: yes and some laughter) He got us to do things that I'm sure he had the scouts do. We loved the games we learned through scouting. He used those games with his scouters and I think that got us into the parlor games that we always played and they were part of the scouting program.

Veon: Anybody else would have been leaders.

Renae: We did not grow up with laces and frills and we had one pair of shoes a year, if you were lucky. We got them just before school. (Maybe **Deon** saying something about felt awkward in a gown.) Yeah, mother sewed a lot of things, but daddy used us as his helpers to be, I was gonna say guinea pigs, but, everything that he needed to work out for scouting (someone says uh huh) or for dancing (someone says: or for theater)—he became the recreation leader (**Louise** says: in our ward for years), I think, for years. Daddy organized and took care of all these things because, again, he had it in him. And his girls turned out to be his, you know, if he didn't know how to do it, he'd grab one of us and we'd go and dance it until we could get it done. You know, didn't matter whether we were tall or tiny, we were on his feet. He would dance with us, we'd stand on his feet and we'd go through all the moves. I don't know if the girls, I remember it very much. And I know LaWanna does. We were very involved in the square dancing part of daddy's life. But again, daddy had a vision. He was a carpenter. He was a builder of all things. (A lot of agreement in the background) There was nothing that our dad, umm, could not do, tell you the truth; I don't know of any, I'm sure there was,

Susan: But you don't know of anything.

Renae: But I, you know when I talk about him, I say my dad could take a house, take this plot of ground and do everything there was to be done in that home, until it was finished.

This is **LaWanna:** The house Renae lives in, didn't daddy take that roof off and turn it around. (**Renae:** Oh yes, he did!) He changed the roof.

Renae: He added on to it.

Louise: And we have, we have pictures of that. We have pictures of that. (Several in the background say yeah.) It used to be this way (**Renae:** It was going... yeah. It used to be this way.) And he turned it. (**Renae:** He picked it.....jumbled with other talking) It was quiet a process.)

Louise: It was quiet a process.

Renae: He had a very—he created.

LaWanna: I wanted to relate a memory that I had with him, not too many years ago. Not too many years before I was married, I and Renae and Louise were the ones at home, so the twins and Clythella were gone, married. But I remember one year for Christmas, daddy asked me if I would go up to the chapel with him, it was getting dark. It was night. And he had something in mind once we got up there in the projection room, up in the chapel. (Someone says, that's a long time ago.) And I've always wondered, I wonder if he had anything to do with getting that built. Anyway, him and I climbed up the ladder into that projection room, and he had me open the windows on the east side of the room and we put on Christmas records (someone says oh) and then we turned the volume up just as loud as we could get it. Then we climbed back down, got in the car and drove all the way to the other end of LaPoint, sat there and listened (someone says, ohh) to all that Christmas music going out and we thought, "Oh we hope everybody's hearing this" because we

enjoyed that. (**Susan**: Oh how wonderful.) And that was a very special time that I was able to spend with him.

Louise: He wanted the whole town to enjoy.... that Christmas music.

This is **Veon** again: On that room, the projection room that LaWanna's talking about, it was in the LaPoint Chapel, it was on the east end of the chapel, above the bishop's office, and it was just an attic room, and if I remember right, and I probably don't, but, the thing was that daddy suggested that they use that empty room to do moving pictures on Friday or Saturday night for the town because it was so far to go to Vernal in the winter and the roads were bad and so, somehow the town supported him and they got a projector. And daddy became the projectionist and us girls became his helpers, those of us that were old enough to be so. And I can remember climbing that ladder, many times going up there, and mama and all of us girls the day before, and I think we mentioned this and I'm not sure if it's on here now, making popcorn balls and taffy. We pulled that taffy for them movies. And so daddy's dream of the old Star Theater, even though it wasn't in that building., (**Clythella**: It was in the church.) prolonged. It came on into the future to where he still had his dream, umm, and many, many, many, many nights, once a week, we could go down, we came up here, and that was a social night for the town and we came up, and I wish there were people that could, you know, that we could interview and ask about.

LaWanna: That was Tridell and LaPoint.

Veon: Yeah, Tridell was invited.

LaWanna: They had their own. (Someone says, Tridell did it too.) They had it on either Saturday night (**Veon**: But they came originally.) or Monday night. We got our choice of Saturday or Monday, but ...once, I don't know if that was every week, I can't remember that (**Veon**: It was, every week.) But I remember, that Tridell got the movie first and then we got the movie. (A couple of them say yes in the background.) And we sat in the chapel to watch it, you know, and I don't know when that went out but I really remember those times.

Renae: I don't ever remember it being in the chapel, but I do remember it being in the recreation room.

Louise: I think...

Renae: I don't ever remember that.....

Louise: But later on when they told us that we couldn't use the chapel part, (several repeat the chapel part) then dad moved it into the recreational hall. (**LaWanna**: ok)

Renae?: Cause he always had to put it on a table and made sure we were separated this far so that, and if anybody stood up, they'd move the picture, (in a squeaky, high pitched voice) ED, SIT DOWN (laughter)

Louise: And we would have to set up, we'd have to set up the chairs, the folding chairs, and put an aisle down the middle (**Renaë:** yes) and he set it up and then he made his own screen, and made his own screen.

Renaë: It must have been because(**Louise:** yeah) I, that's when I was just

Louise: But that's where we, that's where I remember seeing the movies was. And it was so exciting because everybody came to them, (oh yes, in the background) the whole town would turn out.

Renaë: That was the night out for LaPoint. (**Louise:** Uh huh, yeah.)

Louise: That's when everybody started bringing stuff, you know, they would bring cookies or this family would bring this or... and then you'd, you'd go spend a couple of pennies or a nickel for whatever you wanted, you know, and that's how they would make the money (**LaWanna:** the budget) (**Renaë:** to rent the movie) to order another movie, order another movie and they were on the reel to reel. (Oh and ahh in the background) They was ...reel to reel....

Veon: The projector was just fascinating to me and now you see it on Walt Disney. (Several in the background say, yes) You know, you see that big projector and these two great big reels. That was fascinating to me and I don't whether I was privy to go more times than any of the other girls or (well Clythella was married, that's why) anyway, so it was left to I and Deon to milk the cows and go up in the projection room. But you know that, that to me was an extension of the old Star Theater. (Much agreement, yes) And I, and that's when we learned about the old Star Theater. That's when daddy started telling us about why, how it came to be and what it was and then he dug out his pictures and I cannot ever think how, as a small, well young lady, I would go to Vernal with my dates to a movie and I would envision daddy's theater behind those curtains, thinking they sure could of done this better. (laughing) (**Louise:** uh huh)

Susan: Well, go ahead and tell us about the Star Theater, too, while you're.....

Renaë: Uh, I'm referring back to the Star Theater. Ok, the first one, to my understanding, ok, that they had in the Star Theater was run by hand. (**Louise:** Oh, my goodness.) Ok, and that's how (**Susan:** the projector?) the projector. And you, either, if you went slow, they went slow. If you went faassstttt, they went fast, ok? And daddy and mama used to sit there and giggle about how they'd get so engrossed (laughing) in the picture, (**Veon?** They'd forget) that they'd forget and pretty soon the horses were going (speaking very slowly) blop, blop (lots of laughing) and then all of a sudden it'd dawn on them, oh, oh, oh we're (noise that I can't put into writing) and then they would (more sounds that I can't type that imitate going faster and faster). Mama and daddy used to sit and laugh and talk about that. (Still laughing in the background.)

This is **Veon:** Why would they, why would they remember that together?

Renaë: I don't know?

Veon: It was the year before they got married; they were dating and, courting, not dating. They were courting. (**Renae:** So it was, ok) So when mother was up in the room with daddy (**Renae:** They probably weren't watching the movie) if he got excited, if he got excited, it went faster (much laughter). When things were the right way, when the things were the right way, it calmed down to normal. (Everybody laughs) I'm sure, I'm as sure as living that that's why... it would have been fun.

Renae: He did. Daddy said. This is Renae. Daddy said, there was times that they would (LaWanna maybe?: they got yelled at), you know, it would go so slow that they'd say: heeyyyy. (more laughing) (**Clythella:** from downstairs, the audience) (Someone says: what are you guys doing up there?)

Clythella: Well, uh, uh, I was just going to ask the twins if they could remember. I remember having fun times. We used to, I thought it was the old Star Theater, but I could be wrong now, but the twins and I used to stand on the stage and pretend like we were Shirley Temple (**Deon:** Yes) and we would dance, and dance on that stage (lots of laughing) while my mother and dad did the work of cleaning up the chairs, (**Veon:** yes, and I was ...) sweeping the floor and putting them away. (And this is **Veon**) But we were tinier then, we were just, cause I remember having one twin on, in each hand (someone says yeah and **Veon:** and throwing us around) and we were, we were Shirley Temple, we were actresses or, and oh, we had more fun.

Veon: And you know, that was my....That was my dream of always and I can have dreams now of being a ballerina on my tip toe (someone says: cause we did that, see) and whirling and whirling and whirling so fast that I lifted into the air and was suspended above the stage (whispering wow in the background) and I waited for everybody to clap and nobody did. I loved it!

Clythella: And then the other thing was my dad, when he was in the scout program, he built little cabins, little log cabins, in the scout room down in the basement. (Laughter) And us kids would play, (someone says, Oh, yes) go to Mutual, (**Veon?:** Whispers: I remember them) you know, while mother and dad were both teachers and they'd take us kids to Mutual with them and we would play house in those little log cabins in the basement, that daddy built for the scouts at the chapel, of the chapel.

Renae: It was down in the bottom, the boiler room wall. They had one room and yet the scouting room actually, you had to go up about two steps (someone says, yesss, into the room) but you had to climb up in it. And it was, (someone says, I remember that) it was real low. I meant, you know I thought I was a large person because (**Louise:** in that room) I could almost touch the ceiling (someone says touch the ceiling) in that scout room (laughter).

Clythella: But us girls, it was big enough for us 'cause we played house in it during Mutual.

Susan: Oh, how fun! (Someone says, yeah) Do you remember that Louise?

Louise: I do, I do, I remember being down in there and, and then, not only was it the scout room but then he had closets that went back underneath the bishop's office and you'd have

to crawl, and that's they, uh, stored all of their scouting stuff and everything. (Lots of yeahs and agreement) But if you was really brave, now when I was growing up, you know, we would challenge each other. I would challenge the boys or the boys would challenge the girls to climb in there and shut the door and stay for, you know, a little while. (Someone says, it was dark) And it, it scared you to death! It did! It was dark and dampish and you was just, your imagination run wild with you as to what was in there, you know, and so I remember that, I remember that very well. And then you'd walk past the furnace room and that old coal furnace would kick on and it'd scare the living daylights out of you. And we used to clean the chapel, daddy and mama and I, and I don't know if you (**Renae**: I, I'm sure) but we would go down and clean the chapel and help Aunt Velma and Uncle Leland. And when that stoker would turn on, it would just; I mean you thought there was ghosts in that chapel. (Laughing) I, I was scared of the chapel and I shouldn't have been, but I was scared of that chapel, you know. (Someone says: You were, yeah) and, and so I remember that old chapel and a lot of the stuff that daddy did. And he built, umm, the little pulpits (**Veon**: yeah) that went into the Sunday School room (somebody says, oh, that's right) and the Primary room. He built all those little pulpits that they had.

Veon: That was, that was another of his carpentry skills. And I was thinking of that scout room, yeah that cubby hole back in there, but he built all the shelves. He never, and he probably did it from waste wood, (several in the background agree) from someone's home (**Veon**: and bent nails) but he, and ben..., and you know, I'm like Louise, I know, I know she says she's got those cans of bent nails that are supposed to be straightened, well that was mostly, I was not the paster, I was the nail straightener (Someone says: Ohhhh) and I used to hate that! (Everybody laughs) I, I, I used to say, when I would go over to Vernal and we'd go into the hardware store, I'd go, I'd, I'd be right back there to the nail bin and I would just idolize those nails cause they were all straight. (Lots of laughter) And I hoped that daddy would buy some that day, (still laughing) but he never did, so we always went home and re-straightened (**Renae**: ok) the nails that he had pulled out in a mistake and I learned to love that. And do you know what now, (snickers) here I am, I'm 70 ummm, anyway, anyway (someone says, you got past that) I go out, I, I, I go down in my basement and out in my shed, Jay's been gone for nineteen years, and I have cans of bent nails out there. I don't know why I've got 'em; I have a little of my dad in me. But I'll be honest with you, I go through those cans first to find a nail if I only need one, rather than go to the store. And I straighten that nail, 'cause I had lots of practice at it. (**Susan**: Good for you.)

Louise: Another thing about that old chapel, this is Louise, umm, he made a lot of the benches that went in that chapel. (Someone says, he did) He made a lot of the benches and he would paint them. Oh, the screen that we used for the movies when we was up in the chapel, and then, so the boys would come up there and play basketball and some of the windows were getting (someone sighs) broken and so he made slats (someone says, so, he made slats) (**Veon** says, if it went over 'em and they were there for years and years and years) uh huh, so that the balls would (**Susan**: Oh, so it wouldn't break them) not hit the windows. It was just like a jail really, (laughter) but, you know. But it kept the windows from getting broken and dad built those so that the expense of windows was not made.....

LaWanna: I was just going to add that they didn't look real attractive when you had a wedding reception there, (**Louise:** yes) but other than that, (they were most welcome) they did very good and they did work with green and gold balls.

Louise: And there was a lot of gold and green balls there and he has a lot of pictures Someone says, yes) and he would decorate, he would do the decorating. He was a ram rocker.

Louise: He was in the Mutual.

LaWanna: This is why he danced with the ones that otherwise wouldn't get to dance.

Deon: There's one thing that probably, I don't know if we touched on it earlier, but this is **Deon**, (laughing) and you've, we've already seen pictures here that we're looking at of the chairs or the benches or the seats that was in the old Star Theater, and when those were taken out, they wound up in a lot of different places. They were not destroyed. They wound up, we had some at our, in our home, down there when we had the home built. I know that those seats and those were hand made, those seats were all hand made. There was a three plank back on them, there was arm rests on them. And Clythella can remember being up on the stage, but me, for myself, I can remember those benches and it must have been 'cause I was running between 'em all the time, but I can remember those benches just as plain, in my mind today, and I had to have been like four (4) or five (5) years old when those benches was finally taken out of that building because it burned down in 1940. (Someone says, ohhh) But I can remember those benches and I can remember them being in the, in the new chapel. (Someone agrees in the background) They used them around the edge of that, that hall (**Veon** says: and they went over by the school grounds) and they went over, they used them for lots of places. (Someone says: ball) (**Veon:** for baseball...)

Renae: Well, we used to have, this is **Renae**, we used to have roller skating, they had a big cement pad, over by the school.

Deon: Well that's the bottom of the Star Theater (several in the background say no, no, no) It wasn't. (They say no, no again)

Renae: No, no, this was right over by the school (Several oh's in the background), this was right over by the old LaPoint school (someone says: across from the chapel) and we held lots of dances there in the summertime and roller skating parties, which were heavenly!

Louise: And daddy, and daddy would string the lights up (**Renae:** yes and others saying yes) so that you could see (someone says yes again) and you could stay until.....(someone says: midnight)

Susan: All hours, huh? (**Louise:** yeah)

Renae: oh, we used to—lots.

LaWanna: And that's another thing daddy did well. He was a (**Renae:** decorator) fantastic electrician (**Renae:** yes) and he could string lights wherever he wanted them. (**Renae:** He, yeah, he could get 'em there.)

Deon: You guys, you, somebody mentioned here earlier, I'm **Deon**, that, somebody mentioned earlier that the Rasmussen home here which is just north of Louise's was the first home to have electricity and that's because our dad and our grandfather put that there. (Someone says yeah and uh huh in the background) and the home that we were built, that Veon and I was borned in, because while we were born in '34 (someone says, oops) and they were still building that (laughter) and, and when electricity came in, we had electricity before anyone else because dad built a windmill and it run, powered our electricity. We had lights in our home before anyone else in LaPoint had lights (someone says, wow) because he would turn it on at night and, and it would power the battery and we had lights in our home. We girls was spoiled from a very, very young age with light. (**Clythella:** I never was spoiled.) (Laughing) But, but I assume....

Louise: It says that right here. Dad says in part of his story, this is **Louise**, he says: "I had the first electric lights to come to Lapoint, the electric plant I used for the Star Theatre, I took it home and there by the first electric lighted home in Lapoint."

Susan: Well, how neat. (Someone in the background says: was ours) Oh that's special.

And, and this is **Veon:** I can remember that people up in LaPoint 'cause all, this is **Veon**, (some laughing in the background) this is better, anyway, uhh people up in LaPoint used to say, "You can tell the Rasmussen's are home, the corral lights are on". (More laughter) "Cause he had put up great big (someone says, oh, towers) tall poles with a light on the top, because us girls were scared to walk up to the corral. So he put up light poles for us and one up in the corral. And we mil...'cause if we were out uhh, not being home (**Renae:** Mutual) doing what we was supposed to, we had to milk the cows whenever we got home, whether it was light or dark and so we had, so in order to get the cows milked, he decided that it was easier to put up the lights that it was for him to go milk 'em at midnight. Yes, you could always tell when the Rasmussens were home because the light was yard, the yard was lighted.

Clythella: Well, then everybody in LaPoint just called our house, the light house. (Everybody laughs)

Deon: Yeah, yeah they did.

Clythella: We was the light house of Uintah Basin. (Someone agrees, yeah, yeah)

This is **Renae:** It was also used in my day, of dating, that about the time the boy would get to our door, the yard light would come on and the boy would run so fast (laughing) because mama and daddy would come barreling out the back door and try to switch on the yard light and they thought they had been shot. (Too many talking at once and there is something about was called the black sheep)

Clythella: And they'd try so hard to get out of there, they'd always back the car into the irrigation ditch and then my dad would have to come out and (lots of laughing) get the car's out of the irrigation ditch.

Louise: That happened more than once. (Someone says: that's so funny.)

Susan: I bet. (Laughing again)

LaWanna: Well, I want to say here about that light out there, basically, when you turn off the lights in LaPoint, it got dark, it was dark. I mean we don't have the lights that they have dotted here and there now, it was pitch dark. And I had an experience with that light out there. Right where this light was, was the corral, but right there was the old privy (laughing). We were lucky. It was government built and it was a beautiful white one with green trim. (**Deon:** No, daddy built that) Anyway, it was white with green trim, (laughter) and it was a two holer, (more laughter)

Clythella says, It was a three holder.)

LaWanna: Oh, three holer—we had a little one.

Clythella: It had two holes and then they had the little one.) (Someone repeats: little one)

LaWanna: But, anyway, at that point in time we did have a bathroom in the, in the house but it didn't work very well, so we used that. And I can remember when the twins were home, a couple of times, and I went out to use it, I would get out there, and see this light could be turned on out there or in the house, or off, either way. And I'd just get out there and then the light would go off. And don't you guys remember turning that light off? (Everybody says, No, not me, huh uh, not us and laughing) And the next thing you know I was screaming at the top of my voice (in a high pitched voice) It's dark out here, turn the light on. (Laughing) Anyway, you don't need, you know don't print that.

Renaë: Yeah, ok. This is Renaë, now this tradition came down the line, (someone says, carried over) carried over, ok? Daddy had a light for the chicken coop, ok? And we had to go out to the end of the sheds and across the creek, across a ditch, to go over and feed the chickens. The switch was at the end of the ca—the, the sheds and LaWanna would say, go ahead, go ahead.

Renaë: Go ahead, I won't turn it off. I promise I won't turn it off. I'd get just middle of the board that we had to walk across the ditch and she would turn the light out.

Deon: We had our own way of making fun. (Someone says, Yes)

Veon: I bet that won't be (I can't understand the rest)

Renaë: We also had a basement under our home. (Agreement and chuckling in the background) And we had to go down the stairs to get all the canned goods (**LaWanna:**

and it was dug out in the dirt) yeah, it was dug out in the dirt, ok? (Someone says, So the walls were dirt, Veon: dirt walls) we kept, dirt walls and daddy had boards for the canning, you know, and it would fill up with water, clear up (Someone adds, in the spring) to about the first or second (someone says, shelf and someone else says, step) shelf, or, or stairway (**Veon** says: To our waist) yeah, to me it was over my head (laughing) ok? (Someone in the background says, words in her mouth) But the switch was at the door, at the top of the stairs. (Someone in background also says, at the top of the stairs.) So again, she'd say, I promise I won't turn it off, I promise I won't lock the door. Go ahead, Go ahead, and she'd wait till I got to the bottom and the light would go out and the door would go slip. (Much laughing) Now that basement was just as dark as it was outside.

LaWanna: Well I had to get even with the twins. (Everyone laughs)

Renae: And of course now I did not do that. I got married early and I didn't do that to Louise, my little sister. (Then everyone breaks out in laughter.)

Louise: That's why I am scared of the dark. (More laughing) I don't trust Renae. (Still laughing).

LaWanna: Every spring that basement did fill up with water (**Renae** says, hah sallymanders and snakes) lots of sallymanders and we did not like going down there (**Renae:** and we had to go out and get a bottle of peaches or anything, beans, corn) to pick up a bottle or whatever and I don't know what happens, but when daddy put that one furnace in where we used to get the clinkers out of the bottom of every morning, I don't remember that ever being under water, (**Louise:** huh huh – meaning no) but I do remember (somebody says, there must have been a dam around it) he must have... (Someone says, I know how....)

Veon: That's when Deon and I dug the drain out from the back. (Someone says, yes, yeah) Deon and I dug that before we got married.

Renae , You know that could be.

Veon: So that basement never filled up anymore. (Someone says, Ohh)

LaWanna: So we had lots of things to be afraid of at our basement (Laughing) and on the way to the potty.

Renae: Oh, spiders, sallymanders, and (a wiggly noise that I can't type)

Clythella: Well now we better...

LaWanna: Now, back to the old Star Theater. (Someone says: Yes)

Renae: Yeah, back to this....

Louise: Why don't you read that letter ... from Uncle Ken.

LaWanna: oh, didn't I...

Veon: Because that was what we were doing...

LaWanna: Well, now wait a minute, oh, I was gonna say, I read that.

Veon: and that needs to be read.

Susan: Yeah, read it again. (Someone asks: How much time have we got? **Susan** says, its fine, it's ok.)

LaWanna: Ok, and this is to, this is to Clista and Clythella, huh. (someone says, yeah, he, he and then something I can't understand about Clista asking for a letter) And June the 26th, 2008 is when this letter was written and it's by Uncle Ken.

What a singular joy it is to hear from two very favorite nieces at this stage of my life and to provide a bit of insight into the history of Mom and Dad's growing family on the old homestead in Lapoint, Utah.

I will go directly to your "query" about the Old Star Theatre. It was built as near as I can recollect in about 1926 or 1927. Pearl and Albert were married on August the 19th, 1925 and it was 2 or 3 years after that when the building was built. It was built on the South side of Main Street about 1 block West of the old Swain-later Bigelow-Country Store, almost in the middle of town.

There were only, I think, about six buildings in town at that time; the old original LDS Church, the Post Office, the Pool Hall, the Mae Sprouses Country Store, the Gas Station, and last but not least the A. W. Norton's Blacksmith Shop. The shop was located just a bit East of the Swain Store and the Theater. The theater was built almost directly, almost entirely of timber the family all helped to procure from the forest adjacent to Paradise Park, a favorite camping and fishing Mecca for all the family in those days. It was also home to the George Bartlett Saw Mill which played such an important part in all of the settlers lives.

Except for the cement foundation and the plastered wall the theater was basically all constructed of large long wooden planks 3 ½ inches thick, set vertically in place and then covered with chicken wire, then plastered over both inside and out by members of the family. It was a huge undertaking, and they first had to go to the mountains and "burn the lime" as they called it so it could be worked into a "pleasing and durable" white material they called plaster. Several men in our families almost became professional after their experiences working on the Old Star Theater.

I am not surprised that Albert Norton's name was on the application for a permit to build. He had come into the family just a couple of years prior and my dad Jacob and Merrill and Rulond all pitched in and helped Albert and Pearl build their first home in Lapoint just a couple of blocks North of where the Post Office and store are today.

Time and travel were at a premium in those days, as it was almost all done by team and wagon or by horse back. Hardly ever did a family make a trip to Vernal or Roosevelt that they didn't pick up some needed items for a relative or a neighbor. Picking things up was just the neighborly thing to do.

Signing of the permit to build did not signify ownership. Albert spent a considerable amount of time working on the theater, but it was mostly in consideration of the "debt of labor" which he owed for the building of his own home. Albert was especially helpful around the theater when it first opened because his combined experiences in the Blacksmith's shop and on the Theater made him a first rate handyman. Yet, as far as ownership was concerned, No, there was never any doubt about who owned it. Merrill had the dream, he managed it, maintained it, did all of the business, handled all of the financial affairs including the ordering and returning of the selected shows.

I used to return home after each show, snugly tucked in warm blankets in the back of Mom and Dad's buggy. I well remember the great excitement and the support the townspeople gave the family in the Hay Days of the Old Star Theater.

Albert Norton, Art Curtis, Merrill and Rulon Rasmussen were the Big Men about town at that moment in time and the girls that were lucky enough to date them as they rode by horseback back and forth to the dances and activities between Lapoint and Tridell were lucky indeed!

My parent's home was the first one in Lapoint to get electricity; this was mostly due to the wizardry in both mechanics and electricity that Merrill possessed. No wonder Albert Norton and Merrill Rasmussen were Lapoint's favorite sons—they could do most anything and do it well and they would forgive the debt if it was not forthcoming.

The Silent movies were all in black and white with the story line underneath each picture in writing. As for movies, Cowboys and Indians were the standard fare. Everybody loved a good gunfight and they wanted to see the bandits and the bad guys finally put down and the hero heralded with honor along with his gorgeous leading lady. Tom Mix was one of the most popular cowboy stars and of course Gene Autry, the singing cowboy, in later years.

One of the most magnificent of the specials was the massive thundering invent of the Steam Engine Trains. The show was usually about a runaway train such as the "Wreck of the Old '97" or a big hold up and robbery such as with the Jesse James Gang. But Monte Blue was the most popular star of the train shows.

There were other great specials, such as the "Song of Hiawatha", a beautiful Indian Love story; it was a gripping story for our time, the days of the reservation and the UBIC (the Uinta Basin Indian Convention). A sequel to this came out after the advent of the talkies called the "The Indian Love Call". The stars were Nelson Eddy and Genette McDonald, the music and singing (singing) was blissfully out of this world, unbelievably beautiful. Another movie was "The Sheik of Arabia", the people were simply spellbound with this strange desert land, culture and beautiful horses.

Well the theater finally came to it's demise with the invention of the new "talking movies". The competition from Vernal and Roosevelt and the early mornings (moanings) of the great depression were just too much. So the theater sat there, like a great ghost. The Star had brought hope, excitement and happiness to the town. The first theater of its kind in the Uinta Basin was finally (distinguished) extinguished forever after sitting idle and empty for some two or three years. As is often the case the vandals thought that it would make a great bon fire. One night they succeeded and the theater was burned down. There was no insurance so the fire ended the days of this monument—an enterprise and dream of a young farm boy, owned and operated successfully by J. Merrill Rasmussen.

I am Merrill Rasmussen's youngest brother Kenneth P. Rasmussen, born Jan. 17th, 1918 at Lapoint, Utah and resided there until I was a Sophomore at Uintah High School. I hope that this information is helpful for you and is what you have been searching for.

Lovingly, Uncle Ken, Kenneth P. Rasmussen.

Louise: Ok, and now I just need to read a little bit right here because it, this is in dad's own writing and it maybe makes a little correction to Uncle Ken's. He says,

I built the first and only motion picture theatre to come to Lapoint in 1929 to 32, a 30 foot by 80 foot by 16 foot ceiling, sawed log(s, umm a) building with a stage and a sloping floor, a snack bar and (a record music) with record music. Individual home umm made seats (sorry) individually homemade seats but they were very comfortable to sit in. Dramas were often held here instead of the ward house. The motion pictures were silent and when the talkie pictures made their appearance, we had to close out due to the expense of them. I sold the building and four lots to George Bigelow and Ashel Caldwell who took out the sloping floor and made a dance hall and a skating rink out of it for a while. Then later it burned down.

So that kind of corrects maybe, so it didn't, yeah it didn't stand idle (something in the background that I can't understand) after the show house burned down or after the show house (someone says, quit) quit. They bought it and made it into a skating rink and that's what umm, Katherine Walker was telling me. I asked her about it and she said, "Oh you know what I remember the most, is uhh, roller skating...in there." She said that's what she remembers the most because she's kind of like these guys, she's their age and so she wouldn't remember the pictures. (Agreeing in the background)

LaWanna: Actually she's a little older than Clythella.

Louise: Is she?

Clythella: (asks who in the background) (Several, including Louise repeats, Katherine, Katherine Walker)

Renaë: ok

Louise: But see, we can do that too.

Susan: They may have talked to them already, not particularly on this, but... When did they build the second Star Theater, then, do you remember?

Deon: Isn't there a date on here somewhere—'69?

Veon: Uhh, well, there was never, there was never a second one built, was there?

Deon: Well, it's this one. (Someone in the background says, Yeah, right here.)

Louise: Yeah, this one.

Veon: This, this was a pavilion. It was called the Star Pavilion.

Renaë: That's the second one.

Susan: And that's the second one.

Louise: Star Pavilion, 1980, right there.

Susan: So it was quite a lot later.

Louise: Yeah, see this is the original, this is the other one. And this is what you remember.

LaWanna: And daddy built that once again for the entertainment of people. (Someone says, of people, the people of Lapoint.)

Clythella: He wanted to turn this into a park.

Renaë: It was a pavilion. It was to be used as a park for the Lapoint people (**Deon:** yes) to come and hold reunions or picnic or family (**LaWanna:** get-togethers) gatherings, the church get togetherings, umm. (**Clythella:** entertainment) That was what it was supposed to be for—entertainment.

Deon: There wasn't an actual park here in Lapoint and daddy hoped to correct that by doing this.

Renaë: Yes.

Susan: And I remember coming here to have a Halloween party, (**Louise:** We did.) shortly after we moved here. (Some laughing and agreeing) So I knew that.....

Louise: We did, we did have quite a few parties here. (Lots of yeah, yeah, quite a few parties in the background)

Deon: It was called the Star Pavilion it was never called the Theater.

Susan: That's true. Ok, alright, ok. (Lots of talking that I can't quite make out—something like it was never called the Star Theater)

LaWanna: So Louise, I remember the reunion held here in '82. (**Renae:** the first one) We had just come up from El Centro. That was the reunion; the last reunion that Glen Bridges was to. (Someone says before he was killed) Right after that, they had that reunion.

Clythella: And they dedicated it.

Renae: Yeah they dedicated it at that time. (**Susan:** Oh, the pavilion?) (someone says:park)

Veon: That's what I was gonna say, there's a monument or is it still out there? (someone says, yeah, it's still there) ok, (someone says, we'll show it to you when...) the day, the date and the year of when this area was dedicated and I think Star The, the Star Pavilion is mentioned on that, isn't it? (**Louise:** I think it is.) And so it was daddy's second effort toward the Star, the Star of his life, carpentry and uh, being able to rebuild a memory.

LaWanna: Well so it wasn't built to replace the Star Theater (**Veon:** No, no) just, I think in memory of...

Renae: It was just in memory of.

Veon: it was to; it was to bring a memory back

Renae: uh huh

LaWanna: And it was a pavilion. You could come inside here, right Louise? (**Louise:** yes) And this is where (**Veon:** there was a stage)

Louise: Actually, we're up about...Yeah, the cement is underneath us.

Clythella: Now did he, did he remodel this so, (**Renae:** There's about what, four feet) for you to live it or did you remodel it?

Louise: Brett, daddy and Garth were the ones that did all of (someone says started this and building this) the upstairs here.

Veon: Dennis came out and helped with that.

LaWanna: So it was never meant to be a theater, it was meant to be a memorial (**Renae:** a pavilion) to the Star Theater (**Renae:** yeah, exactly) because you held family reunions here.

Veon: And when it quit, Susan, when did it go down and why? Because daddy gave up the idea of it being a park and decided to make a home for Louise and Glen. (**Renae:** yes, yes)

Louise: And the reason why is because the insurance was so high. (A couple of them say yes, yes) It was not...

Renae: There was so much red tape, so much red tape.

Louise: So much red tape that we couldn't allow people to come in anymore. (**Veon:** the liability and then **Renae** also says: the liability of it.) That's why dad said we just can't do it anymore.

LaWanna: That's what I wanted to say when I was reading that letter; did you notice that it burned down? (**Louise:** uh huh) (**Veon:** And there was no insurance) Daddy says it burned down but there was no insurance. He had never gotten insurance on it. (**Clythella:** couldn't afford it) And isn't that it, yeah, it's because he couldn't afford it. And once again, our dad, like with Clythella and Gerald's adventure, inventure, or whatever (**Deon:** endeavor) daddy said he had never seen that kind of money before in his life.

Clythella: He couldn't even; he couldn't even cash the money.....

LaWanna: And that's another reason daddy, I'm sure, kept track of every penny he spent or he earned because he had to keep uh, so that we could be looked after and cared for and taken care of. And this isn't part of the story, the Star story, but I will never forget . Daddy said I needed a new coat. And so we were gonna stop by Sears or somewhere and pick me up a coat, before we came back to Lapoint. And he said I looked at my money, and I needed to gas the car up before we could leave to come to Lapoint, but he said I needed a coat, so he took me somewhere to get it. He let me look at the coats and he said I picked a coat that was a beautiful coat, but it was more money than what he had to pay for the coat and get us home. And he said, "I talked you into a plainer coat." And you know until he told me that story, I'd never thought of that. That never occurred to me. But it had bothered him for all these years because he said, "I felt bad I couldn't get you the nicer coat. I had to talk you into getting the plainer coat because I needed to get us home." And so daddy's money was never plentiful.

Veon: He used it wisely. He used it the way he should. He taught us some of those same things in our lives.

LaWanna: Yeah, and I think the only time daddy might have had a bit of money was, of course after mama died (**Deon:** life was a little easier) and then he was able to take a few little trips.....that he wanted to do

Veon: Actually when he sold all the farm.

Clythella: that was another one of his favorite things to do was travel.

Renae: ... his great, his grandkids on these trips (someone says, yeah—they were important to him) Louise or LaWanna just told one. I've, I've got a similar story, uhh, in my teen years, these stand out pillow ca...slips, or the big (someone says the crinoline, the crinoline slips?) yeah, oh the great big slips and that, and everybody in Lapoint (someone says: were wearing them) was wearing them and I didn't have one. And I seen one in JC Penney's in Vernal, you know, and I wanted it sooo bad. Oh, I just that so bad and it was five dollars. And of course like daddy, like LaWanna, he said, you know, "we just can't get it, you know, we just don't have the money for that." I was hurt (someone says, ohh) because I wor..I wanted to be like everybody else, you know, with this standout pillow, or you know, slip. And when mama passed away, daddy and I were sitting at the front room table and he said, "Renae, I want to let you know something", now this is years, years and years (someone says, past, and someone else says, later) past. He said, "My heart hurts so much because I could not get that (someone says, slip) slip you wanted." And he said, why, he said "why it was just a mere five dollars but five dollars then was like a hundred now", well, not even a hundred now—probably more like a thousand, you know. And he said, "How I wished I had just went ahead and got it for you" he said, "because all these years I have hurt because of that." And he said, "I had to make a choice between what we needed and something my daughter wanted with all her heart." And, and that was daddy though, but that's the way we lived. If he had to use that five dollars, we probably could have used, I mean that, in that day that would have bought us a week's groceries, if not more (someone agrees: yeah, yeah) you know. And so I said daddy, I said, again that was material stuff (again someone says, yeah, yeah) Yes, I was hurt very badly at the time but I understand now.

LaWanna: But it was a temporal thing. (**Renae:** Yes) It wasn't a spiritual thing, it was a temporal thing. (**Renae:** And yet it bothered him that he couldn't get his daughters what they wanted....) but whoever knows the best story of daddy and mama going to Yellowstone on their honeymoon and how much money he had then. (Laughing again) Who, do you want to relate that Clythella, do you remember anything about it?)

Clythella: Well, if there's, no, I don't, I don't remember anything about it, so you go ahead.

LaWanna: Well, he only had so much money, fifty dollars or something. (**Louise:** it's in here) yeah, it'll be in there (someone else says, I don't know if it is or not) so look it up (**Louise:** it is) but he had just piddlings of money, you know, and he had to borrow, (someone says, I got it marked down,) had to borrow fifteen dollars or something from his new in-laws and they went with him (someone says, to a certain point)? But anyway, that was their Yellowstone trip, their honeymoon. They went on their honeymoon up there (someone laughs) and grandma and grandda.., grandpa Blackburn ended up going with them. But, he talks about their marriage license, golly, I didn't know that was in there, that's great! Anyway, (**Renae:** She hasn't read the book) (everyone laughs) I have. Years ago when I read the book, ok, let's viz, viz,viz, viz, viz, ok, that's past the hardship, (someone says: I think so) Umm, ok, here we was already to get married and hadn't even thought of such a thing to ourself, or whatever that was. Uhh, never had discussed or even mentioned it to each other and we found we were more surprised than the Blackburns were. He must have been his proposal. (Several agree in the background and some chuckling with it.) So we just stood there and had one good laugh. Oh, it was the wish

bone over the door. (Someone says, yeah) (**Louise**: No, no the horseshoe.) (Someone says, yeah again) and they've got wishbone here.

Clythella: It's a chicken wishbone.

Louise: Oh, is that what it is. Ok, I see. I was thinking it was a horseshoe. (Someone says, me too.)

Veon: Anyway, he says they got serious and from then on and started preparations as to getting married.

Susan: Now, tell me your mother's name, full name.

Clythella: Vergie, Vergie Ellen Blackburn.

Susan: Ok.

LaWanna: Ok, so they started preparations to getting married and so on the decided date I had \$15.00 and I had borrowed \$25.00 more from Lillie Perry and with a Chevy Coup car I borrowed from my brother Reed and with Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn, that always gets me, (laughter) we were off to get married and was married in the Salt Lake Temple the 18th of June, 1930. We fooled the crowd of chivereers by going to a different motel that night than they expected us to. Next we spent half the night scratching paint off the car. Uhh, next day I bought her a hat \$4.00, see he writes this all down, (someone says uh umm) I bought her a hat which was \$4.00 and wedding ring \$12.00 and motel \$2.00 (someone says, whoa) left me \$21.00. So with \$15.00 and \$25.00, that what \$30.00 (**Deon**: that's \$40), oh, that \$40 (someone repeats \$40) left him \$21.00 to go on their honeymoon. Rile paid the gas to Pocatello, Idaho, where relatives fitted us out with a tent, bedding, food, etc. and we, Vergie and I was off on our honeymoon trip to Yellowstone Park. The weather was stormy, the dirt roads that they had at time were slippery, hilly, rocky and quite bad, but we were having fun anyway. (Everyone laughs.) Never met more than five cars all the way (time) we were in Yellowstone (Park), (Someone says, Oh, how nice) very few people there. But all the scenery (scenic) value and grandeur was there better than it is today. (Someone in the background agrees.) And I think that's basically what I wanted to say, but, I get, apparently ...they didn't.....

Deon: See what he did is done on this next page he tells us that it was, out of the \$40 they had so much left over.

LaWanna: But I guess the, Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn didn't go with them to... (**Veon**: they dropped them off at Pocatello) Idaho, I mean they went to Idaho but they didn't go on the rest of the way to Yellowstone. And then they come back down. Ok, well he says right here, the ride down the other side into Idaho met, wasn't so bad and we arrived at Sugar City just dark, rented one of the three motel cabins they had in town for \$2 and hit the hay. Boy were we tired! Next morning our money was gone so we headed for Pocatello in a round about way in order to see American Falls (and you notice he always is thinking of the scenery?) (Much agreement in the background, yeah, always did trippin') and trippin'

which was fantastic and besides the scenery we caught a big mess of (oh, they fished too) (there is some chuckling in the background) (fish) in the eddies and pools below the dam. (Illegally but we didn't know that.) Back in Pocatello we relaxed. The next day we went to Lava Hot Springs and I sprained my ankle which held us up for 10 days longer in Pocatello because I couldn't drive. Rile paid the gas back to Lapoint so our \$40 ten day, honeymoon trip was simply great and so we started out on married, married life.

Deon: And they did it on \$40. (Someone agrees, yeah.)

LaWanna: This is a great book.

Clythella: I'd like to say, now this is Clythella. There's one of the ladies in Lapoint that made the comment about daddy and his, how much he spent on his trips. She says, there's only one person that could go around the world on a nickel and that would be Merrill Rasmussen. (Everybody laughs) (Someone agrees, with I think so) (**Susan** says, it sounded like he worked his way around) (Someone else says, he did, yes.)

Veon: He had a way of making everything work.

Clythella: In his later years he started doing a lot of traveling and he went to Hawaii two or three times and then in 1985 I had the privilege of going to Hawaii with my daughter and uhh, she, of course, showed me all the sights and everything, you know and I, oh, I just enjoyed myself so much. When I came home, the first time I met with daddy, you know after I got back, he says, Well, Clythella, did you go here? Did you go there? Did you do this? Did you do that? and I said yes to everyone of them cause Susan made sure, you know, I saw all the sights and after I, I said yes, and got through, you know after the conversation was over, this, my dad said, Well, I guess you been to Hawaii all right. (A lot of laughing from everyone) (**Susan:** He finally believed you then.) So from that remark I assumed that he'd covered all the sp...all the (**Susan:** That's right, he knew.)

LaWanna: You know, this is **LaWanna**, he was a super guide and he always wanted you to see everything that he had seen. But he didn't want to spoil it for you so he wouldn't, if he had seen it first, he wouldn't (**Deon:** He wouldn't tell you about it) he wouldn't tell ya (**Louise:** anything) (someone agrees, huh uh) much about it because he didn't want you, I think he was afraid if he told you what he'd seen (**Louise:** You might be disappointed) then you go and see it and it wouldn't be...appear the same to you. So he would say, "You need to see that."

Clythella: May I tell another one....gosh, I've got so many, I'm sorry.

Susan: No, this is great.

Clythella: This is **Clythella** again. (Someone says we love 'em.) The year that my dad took my daughter, Annette, I believe that, there was only two grandchildren that was able to go on that south, southern Utah trip, you know that he... (**Veon:** the Grandparent Trip) you know, the grandkids trip. Our daughter happened to be lucky enough to be one of them

and so my dad asked my husband and I, we had a truck and a camper, and he asked my husband if he would take us, you know. The sites always had to be right in the perfect spot at the perfect time of day. Well this one day, we were in the umm, or wherever it was, and we had to be at Grand Canyon at sunset. Well, wherever we were my husband had to drive that truck and camper as fast as he could so we were at the rim of Grand Canyon as the sun went down. (Someone says, Oh) That meant a lot to daddy. (Someone says uh huh) (**Susan**: To see it then.) We discovered on that trip, that boy we couldn't stop five minutes (someone says, anywhere) if we had to go to the bathroom or something we had to hurry (some laughing) because we had to be at a certain place at a certain time. That meant a lot to him. I don't know why.

LaWanna: Well we lived back in Virginia for two years and the last two weeks that we were there daddy came and spent that two weeks with us. And then he, of course, rode back to Utah with us. We had two cars, our son was driving one and I was driving the other and, and umm, anyway, daddy was riding with us and I should have known he would be the guide because when we usually go from like here and to Virginia, we just go straight, you know, we're not sight seeing, (**Glen** comes in and says hello) we're just heading there and so when we come back, daddy starts in saying well, have you guys been here? Well, have you gone there? Or have you gone there? Well, no. Well, I...why don't we go off the path just a little bit and go see that. So we took in Nauvoo and we took in a couple of other places and it was ok with our son who was driving the car, the other car, but when we got into Colorado, once again, daddy says, Have you guys been to Denver, have you been to the museum there? And we go, no. And he says, Well let's just go off the path just a little bit and go into the Denver Museum. And we were communicating with my son with a walkie-talkie or whatever, so I says, I'll have to tell Mike that I want to take the lead because I can't tell him we're going there 'cause he won't want to go. And so I got on the walkie-talkie and I says Mike, Grandpa wants to stop in Denver. Well, what for? Well you just follow me. So we went on in to Denver and went to the museum because daddy wanted to and we had an enjoyable couple of hours there. Well to make a real story short, it was a wonderful trip. We got to Utah. Mike had joined the Air Force when we were in Virginia so when we got to Yuma, Arizona, which was our next duty station, and he ended up in the service; his first duty place was in Denver. And I started getting post cards from Michael, Mom, there's this place, the museum. It's really fantastic. (Laughing) And I go, Mike, what happened? You know. But daddy, daddy was always like that. He, if he had the opportunity to take us somewhere or show us something (**Clythella**: take a side trip) he wanted to do it.

Louise: I always said, My gosh, dad, you've seen that a hundred times and he said you know what I can enjoy it over and over and over (someone says yes) as long as I'm with someone that has never seen it before (someone says that's right) that was his philosophy; that was his life. He could enjoy it whether he'd seen it a hundred times or not, just because he enjoyed it with the ones who was seeing it for the first time.

LaWanna: Well, and he's taken many trips with his brothers and sisters, (**Louise**: yeah) to California to wherever they always go, Hawaii, didn't they all go to Hawaii?

Louise: Uh huh, they did.

Clythella: I didn't, did they? I...

Louise: Uncle Ken and Aunt Velma and Aunt Pearl and....

LaWanna: And I definitely think he enjoyed it the second time around more than the first time, if he had like those people with him.

Veon: Because he knew what he was gonna see.

Louise: Cause he had people with him (more agreement in background) and he knew what he was going to be seeing.

Susan: That's fine.

Renaë: A lot of stuff that she doesn't need cause it sure hasn't got anything to do with the Star Theater.

Susan: Oh, that's all right.

Louise: Oh, I know another thing. You know there, you and I was looking at those pictures yesterday (**Susan:** yes) and I said Oh, daddy built that, the monument to the Utah Pioneers (someone says DUP) (**Veon:** Yeah, the DUP Monument) (**Susan:** the Taft Post Office) uh huh, yes, daddy built that. He built the old post office, the one that, where Kathryn was, he built that.

Deon: Yes, that little tiny cubby hole that was bathroom size. (Laughing)

Louise: Yeah, with the flat roof, that's (someone says yes) what just drove me crazy was the flat roof, (someone says yes) the little square flat roof. (**LaWanna:** Oh, that's what he built?) He helped build Sprouses Store and he also helped build the Whiterocks Chapel, the old Whiterocks Chapel (someone says the old one, uh huh) (**Renaë:** it was still there?) which is still there.

Deon: He was the one that was called to do that. He was like the supervisor over it or whatever.

Renaë: Yeah, you might say called a mission to there.

Louise: Yeah, that's what, they had a picture in there, you know.

Clythella: Did he help with any of the dams?

Louise: And he did. He went up to Paradise Park and helped build that dam up there so that it would hold water for irrigation later on. (**Susan:** Oh, that's so neat.) Yes

Clythella: Somebody told Gerald that he was also involved in doing the ground work for this dam that's going up here too. (**LaWanna:** I'm, I'm sure it was) (More agreement) They said he was involved in that and the cemetery.

Louise: And the cemetery, (someone says, oh yeah) he was in charge of the cemetery for years (**LaWanna:** year and years) and he plotted it out and there (somebody says, that's true) are still some cement blocks that I helped him put in there so that it would, so in the snow, you know, in the winter when the snow was up, those cement blocks would stick up out of snow and they could still find where they needed to dig (someone says, what graves?) the graves, by those little blocks, (someone says markers) they could just measure, you know, and, and then they wouldn't be digging up somebody that wasn't supposed to be dug up. (**Susan:** That's a good idea.) Yeah, that's a good idea.

Deon: Or burying somebody on top of somebody... (Someone says ...share a casket) (Someone says....monument)

Louise: And I think I told you that I found the old cemetery book, (**Susan:** Oh, that's right.) remember? (**Susan:** yes) I told you, (someone says old Nielson) I found that old cemetery book and it was down in the bus garage under (gasps) the couch and it was dusty and dirty and anyway, it had all of my dad's hand writing in it, all of his plots that he had drew up for that cemetery and so I latched onto it. (Somebody says yes) Everybody else wanted it but I said, nope, I want it. I'm gonna look through it, you know. And when I really got to thinking about it, because the others wanted to take it, and one of them I knew he would not return it, and I decided not to let, not to pass it around because I knew it would not get back where it needed to go. (**Veon:** 116 pages) So I took it over to the courthouse and gave it to the recorders over there and they were so tickled to get that. (Someone says ohhh) (**Susan:** I bet.) They were so excited to get that. (Someone says ohhh neat—Hi Glen) But, but dad's writing (**Veon:** And it will be one of the best records they will have) (someone says yes) his plats were all over everywhere in that book, in perfect, perfect writing, you know, so.... (**Susan:** How neat.) anyway...

This is **Renae** and I'd like to just say one last thing at the end of our thing about daddy's Star Theater and that is daddy always had a dream, always, and the Star Theater was the beginning of his life time of dreams and accomplishments and talking about some of the monuments daddy has made and they're over, you know, around the country, especially Lapoint, the one that is west side of the Country Store now owned by Jeff Nelson, that monument is one that daddy and I put in the year that mother died. (Somebody says '65) Mother's last trip she took, before she died, was with daddy and I to the river, west, (someone says to get the rocks) to pick up the rocks, and they could not be just any rock, they had to be special ones with (someone says stripes in them) certain designs on them and stripes in them. And that was mama's last trip, (someone says in a car) in a car. When we went out there, it took her out; it took us a lot to get her in the car and out there, but daddy, again, his art work and everything he done, he couldn't do it and just straight square, umm, nothing. It always had to have a design...

Veon: Appealing

Louise: It had to have personality.

Renae: Appealing, it had to have personality (**Veon:** Yep, it had to be appealing) and daddy did that in everything he did, including his daughters. Ok?

LaWanna: He made it unique.

Well, Susan, this is **Deon:** I told you earlier about the quantity of things that he did, but what he was most sure he wanted left behind was not the quantity of what he did, cause their telling you how many things he was involved with, but the quality of it. (Much agreement in the background). That's what he wanted to be remembered for.

LaWanna: Well, isn't there a saying that says, when you do something, either do it well or don't do it at all. (Several say yes)

Louise: Grandma Bascom used to say if you can't do something good don't do it at all.

Renae: Do it the best you can.

Louise: Give it your best shot.

Veon: And I think that was dad's philosophy. (Everyone agrees) Yeah, and we erased the Grub Box story but I'm gonna tell it. (**Susan:** Do) That was an example of his, his quality work because he had a plan. He had a purpose and then the plan, well he had the plan and then he had the purpose for it. (**Susan:** Go ahead and describe it.) ok. The box was called the grub box and it was made out of wood and the best thing about the box was that it was a table as well. But it held everything in there for a camping trip that you could want, including the utensils, knives, spoons and forks, frying pans, sauce pans, lids, umm, what we call now a dutch pan, dutch oven. But, the thing that I enjoyed when we went on those trips, well, let's see—describe it. It was big enough, as Renae has mentioned at one time, to sit in the back of a car, in the trunk.

Clythella: It was about 30 inches tall.

Veon: Yeah, it was, it was about 30, 36 inches tall and about (someone says 36 wide) might have been 36 wide. I wish it were still available I would, I would take it as a keepsake, and it had an upper shelf where all the small things sat, a medium shelf where the cans of flour and honey and those things, and then the bottom shelf held the pans and all the larger things. And then a drawer that was underneath everything, that came out, and it had the lids and the knives, spoons and forks, all underneath that and, and the door, and it was—the door, (someone says it slanted) it slanted, there's the word I'm looking for, it slanted, but when it came out and that drawer was pulled out it became a table, or a working space.

Deon: And how many times did we make biscuits on that?

Veon: And, yes, and mother--that was its purpose was to make bread or biscuits or rolls and to cut up vegetables but when that thing, when daddy would load that on and then load it. It was the last thing that went on, plus the can of milk. And I couldn't wait to get to the

destination of the camping ground, (someone says where we were going) where we were going to see that grub box be opened up and see the meals that mother would create out of them. It was wonderful and it was ideal and so it was, it's a beautiful memory—one that I, I treasure a lot. (Someone says uh uhh) But another thing about daddy was his integrity and I think we have touched on it all the way around here. But his integrity, trust, the people trusted him and his integrity was in tact. They knew that if they asked Merrill to do something that he would try his best to do it. And the old Star Theater was an example of completion. He, you know the picture, excuse me, the picture we got here, it isn't finished, right here. I can see that, it's not finished. I don't know that it ever got finished, I'm almost sure it did, because daddy wouldn't have left it this way. (Someone says uh huh.) These were simply a (**Deon**: pictures of the project) a building in process. And as we came through town this morning, and I will almost swear on a bible, LaWanna says where was this old building at? So I pulled up to where it was at and off to the side there's big cement blocks (**Susan**: I wondered) chunks of cement (**Louise**: that was the foundation) and I will lay you a bet that every one of them were poured by my dad. (Emotion in her voice.) (**Louise** and **Susan**: Yeah) (Someone says him and his brothers) They are the foundation of that old building and they are there. How many years has it been? (Someone says, Yeah) (**Louise**: It's right where that building was.) It's been almost a hundred years.

Susan: They just barely dug those up, I think, to build that fence.

Louise: Yeah, they did.

LaWanna: And, and I'm going down before they move any of them and I'm taking a picture of 'em, because they are the beginning of dad's memory of this building and his handiwork is there. I wish his name was on 'em, but it-- they're not, I know they're not, but I know they were the foundation of this building and it is the last memory we got, (more emotion in her voice) so girls we better go down there and we better have a picture.

Louise: And we better get our picture, huh? (Most all of them agree and say yeah—laughing too)

Well, this is **Clythella** and I'd like to say that daddy's career as a project...or you know, running the, the projects didn't stop. It went on. The theater stopped (several in the background say yeah and uh huh) but daddy's experiences (**Veon**: with photography) with photography and with running movies in the church house continued so he was still able to...

Veon: Yeah when he built this Star, this Star Pavilion. One reunion he took all of the pictures that he'd always taken. He became the projectionist again, the pro/ jec/ tion/ ist again and he put them all over the wall for everyone to see. (**Renae**: yes) (**Susan**: How neat!) All the things that had happened in his life (**Louise**: and all these slides, we had a slide show) and he did slide shows. (Someone says, it was wonderful) And the one thing that daddy and I both had to learn was, when you're telling a story with pictures, don't reach beyond the edges of the pictures, because no one can see there. Don't tell them what's outside the picture. Because he would often say, and it became a boring process, he would often say, just like I do, well, just off to the side of here (everyone laughs) and right

above that, there was this mountain (more laughing) Well, you can't even imagine that in your mind. All you can see is the little square picture and so you have to say, if you want to see what's beyond that, go up there. But I had the, I went to Europe and I did the same thing. When I came home, I was telling everybody about my trip and I would say, and just right to the side of that, (laughing) cause I was in Rome. Here's the Trev, the Trevili (Trevi) Fountain, and I said, and just to the side of that is where I went and bought my shoes. (Laughter) Well, they didn't care. (**Susan**: They didn't know, yeah) because it's not part of the picture.

Susan: not part of the picture. Well, that's good to remember.)

Veon: Yeah, there's the grub box.

Susan: Ok, well add (someone says, you can envision that) that to this history.

Deon: Ok you can add a little extra note to that. Our daughter (**Veon**: There's a picture of it.) and her husband built, or started, a café in Roosevelt, that's Joanne and Clifford Merkley, (**Susan**: Oh, right.) and they named it the Grub Box and that's what they was naming it after that.

Susan: Isn't there one in Naples?

Louise: It's called Kitchen Grub, in Naples.

Susan: Oh, ok.

Deon: But the one that they run in Roosevelt, that little thing they run there, they called it the Grub Box, (**Susan**: That's right) in memory of the grub box that daddy built.

Susan: Oh, how neat. (**Louise**: yeah)

Deon: Because it was always there for food

Louise: Well do you know, maybe you guys would like to come back and do this again and maybe add some more if you think of anything or...

Veon: Why don't you go over what we've done? (**Susan**: All right, well let's...) And you decide if we've covered it.

Louise: If not, I'll just get with you, 'cause I really didn't get to say anything. (Someone says, ohh) (Laughing)

Veon: That's what I tried to get you to do and you passed it.

Louise: No, I'm just kidding. (**LaWanna**: Oh no, we got her) I got, I got plenty...

Susan: Well, I (someone says, I think there's something lacking) I think what I'll do is I'll go ahead and type this up (someone says, I think so) and then I'll let you read it (**Louise:** ok) and you can...(someone else says, ok) Maybe what would be nice, and I don't know how legal that is and I'll have to ask them since I goofed, (someone says ok, yeah) some of the things that we talked about before that didn't get caught on tape, maybe we could add those in (someone says ok) and if not, we could meet again and talk about it or whatever. But yeah, after you see what's on here and read what we've said... In fact, I'll give you all a copy and you can make notes out to the side (**Louise:** side..Oh that will be a good idea, repeated by others in the group) in your copy about what you maybe want to add to it, or cover on another session if you want to do it that way, or whatever. (**Deon:** We'll probably just repeat ourselves) Well, and you know, it's up to you, but....

Louise: But, you know, now that we've talked about it, we've got pictures. I know you guys may even have pictures that will match some of the stories that we've told.

Susan: Well, and that's what I'd like to do is see how much we can share with the pictures (someone says yeah) and then, and these letters and things and then I want to put them right in with the oral history (**Louise:** uh huh) to show what you're talking about and, (someone says yeah) and to, (someone says, where you're at) because the more pictures you have (**Clythella:** a picture is worth a thousand words) the better it tells the story. (**Veon:** Oh, that's daddy's theory) Yeah (**Veon:** the whole wall.)

Glen: You know where I asked Merrill if I could marry Louise?

Susan: I don't. (Someone says, No we didn't -- in the old Star Theater?)

Glen: On a roof he was working on. (**Veon:** Ohh and laughing) It happened at the Roosevelt Park and he was building a concession stand for the UBIC.

Susan: Oh my word.

Veon: Oh, for heaven sakes.

Louise: And the UBIC, Uncle Ken called it, Uintah Basin Indian (**Susan:** Indian--- Industrial) instead of the Uintah Basin Industrial.

Susan: Maybe it started out that way, but I've only heard Industrial

Glen: It's Uintah Basin In Celebration now (someone says, in celebration now)

Susan: They've changed it now?

Louise: That's what they changed it to.

Susan: Ohhh

Louise: But it's always been Industrial Convention. (Someone says uh huh)

Deon: As I've gone over this Susan. This is amazing. That we have stayed so close to this and, and (someone says yeah cause I didn't even know we had this) somewhere in every bit of our discussion we have covered every one of your questions.

Susan: Well and that's good. That's for you to keep. That's fine.

LaWanna: I was looking there thinking if there's anything that we haven't....

Deon: Now see, some of it we have but....

Veon:....Enormous amounts beyond that

Susan: Yeah, that's only to stimulate some thoughts and to get you to remember a few things.

Deon: We should have had this when we did that little book.

Susan: Well, those were just some off the top of my head too, I didn't (**Deon:** They're beautiful) I didn't know (**Louise:** really, you did so well) Well, thank you. I just was thinking of these things (**Veon?:** I feel very good about what we've done today after all of this and I hope that you will too) Well and I do....

END OF TAPE